

## What is Black August?

Black August is an annual commemoration focused on uplifting the lives and sacrifices of political prisoners persecuted by the American criminal justice system. Recognizing Black August serves as a potent reminder of the indomitable spirit of the Black community, and celebrates its resilience and contributions made while shedding light on the struggles faced throughout history.

It emerged as a commemorative period in the 1970s -- primarily within prison communities -- to honor fallen leaders and revolutionaries who fought against racial injustice, police brutality, and oppressive systems.

In this sacred month, we pay homage to legendary warriors like The Soledad Brothers and W.L. Nolen, whose lives were tragically cut short, but whose spirits continue to inspire our ongoing resistance. Among them stands George Jackson, a revolutionary leader whose unwavering commitment to justice and prison reform inspired countless activists.

Additionally, Black August is a time to reflect on significant historical events that have shaped the course of the Black liberation movement, such as the Watts Uprising of 1965 and the Haitian Revolution of 1791. This month serves as a call to action, urging us to engage in self-education and activism to break down the barriers of racial prejudice and advance the cause of racial equality.

By immersing ourselves in the lessons of Black August, we empower ourselves to be catalysts for change, fostering empathy and unity in the pursuit of a more just and inclusive society.

One of the cornerstones of Black August is the remembrance of heroic figures who made immense sacrifices in their pursuit of civil rights and freedom through political education. At A Long Talk, we believe we can "educate to end hate". Through your engagement with the material in this month's newsletter, you become an important piece in helping us achieve this mission.

Click the links below to learn more about Black August



**WATCH**

[\*Still Fighting: Unpacking the Revolutionary Spirit of Black August\*](#)

**READ**

[\*A brief history of Black August - New York Amsterdam News\*](#)

**LISTEN**

[\*Black August: A history and tribute\*](#)

**LET'S TALK ABOUT...** **A LONG TALK**  
ABOUT THE UNCOMFORTABLE TRUTH  
**THE SUPREME COURT** **AUGUST 17 @ 1:00 PM EST**

### Getting Nervous Yet?

Roe v Wade, affirmative action, backtracking LGBTQ+ rights, accusations of widespread corruption amongst justices...what's next??

Join Kyle and the A Long Talk community for an open, honest conversation about what the present has brought us and what the future holds with this "SCOTUS for life."

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUodQuqjsqGtF7NxcwqghUbPwEdp6UxL230#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUodQuqjsqGtF7NxcwqghUbPwEdp6UxL230#/registration)

### The Forgotten History of Affirmative Action

The recent dismantling of affirmative action in higher education illuminates both the power and danger of master narratives that sustain racial ignorance. Despite more than 50 years of affirmative action policies that effectively opened up American institutions to minorities and women (who were long excluded for no other reason than their race and/or gender), the American public is still exceedingly ignorant about what affirmative action is, what it does and who benefits.

For more information visit <https://www.alt-universe.co/c/free-resources-on-race/the-forgotten-history-of-affirmative-action-8f5091e8-27dd-4788-981a-7986cfed4720>; and <https://www.aapf.org/publications>

# THE FRONTLINE

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## A Long Talk Updates

### Tales of the Cocktail



Kyle and Kamal spoke at TOTC 2023 during a workshop on Cultivating a Culture of Anti-Racism in the spirits industry. They were selected out of many submissions to speak at this annual event in New Orleans, LA. visit <https://youtu.be/5b3Q47mQPjQ> to see more.

### Movie Mixer



In the spirit of **Black August**, we are asking our community to watch **ATTICA**, a gripping documentary by Stanley Nelson, streaming on Showtime. Watch as survivors, observers, and expert government officials recount the 1971 uprising at the Attica Correctional Facility. The violent five-day standoff between mostly Black and Latino inmates and law enforcement gripped America then, and highlights the urgent, ongoing need for reform 50 years later. Watch and meet with us to discuss!

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZlu-f--oqTsoHNDnTNGsfEINjLHdhFAMLeM>



## Selma with the BIG10

On July 15, 2023, Kamal had the opportunity to travel to Selma, Alabama to join leadership from the Big Ten Conference (BIG10) for its “Big Life Series” educational experience. For the second consecutive year, the BIG10 lead an unparalleled educational journey for selected student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and stakeholders. The “Big Life Series: Selma to Montgomery”, took place July 14-16, 2023. During this immersive and transformational experience, participants followed the steps of the United States Civil Rights Movement.

***“This was by far the most important trip I've taken in my life. If you don't believe me press play on the two-minute video from last year's trip, and listen to Bryan Stevenson's words. Then press play on this year's recap video. This whole experience is about remaining uncomfortable and using that discomfort to forge ahead no matter what.”***

~ Kamal Carter

We strongly encourage our partners, both individuals and organizations, to get out of their comfort zone and consider taking a trip like this to further your anti-racism journey.

Visit for more information: [Big Ten Conference To Present Second “Big Life Series: Selma to Montgomery” Educational Experience](#) or watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sXPx4SV2798>

## A Long Talk creator meets with U.S. Rep Daniel Goldman



On July 27, 2023, A Long Talk Creator, Kyle Williams, and his sons, Jelani, Elijah & Caleb were invited by U.S. Rep. Daniel Goldman (D-NY) for an introductory meeting. Rep. Goldman, an alum of Sidwell Friends, heard about the A Long Talk experience held with the Washington, DC Quaker school. Kyle and his sons shared their stories and encouraged Rep. Goldman to use his platform to create legislation for ALL students across the country to receive an anti-racism activation experience. ***“After the tragedy of Columbine, this country launched a War on Bullying that was quickly adopted by states all over the country and has led to millions of students receiving state-mandated anti-bullying programming. My message for Mr. Goldman was simply, what else has to happen in America in order for everyone to receive an anti-racism activation experience?”***

~ Kyle Williams

See more at: <https://twitter.com/ALongtalk2020/status/1684689706246660009?s=20> and <https://www.jeffveley.com/2019/04/20/columbine-anti-bullying-20-year-anniversary>.